

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	4 th May 2010
Location	McKeown's Bar, Clanbrassil St., Dundalk, Co. Louth
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Peter Hoey
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1922 Home County: Louth
Education	Primary: St. Mary's, Knockbridge, Co. Louth Secondary: CBS, Dundalk, Co. Louth
Family	Siblings: 1 brother Current Family if Different: Married to Peggy (RIP) with 1 son, 2 daughters, 9 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren
Club(s)	St. Bride's, Knockbridge; Kilkerley Emmets; Dundalk Young Irelands; Naomh Malachi, Sheelagh
Occupation	Drapery Trade; Royal Liver (part-time)
Parents' Occupation	Gardener & PJ Carroll Co. & Ltd [Father]; Housekeeper [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fine Gael
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	15 th June 2012
Period Covered	1930s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Louth, Monaghan
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Material Culture, Education, Media, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Challenges, Politics, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Opening of Croke Park, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy/ Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Peter talks about his lifetime involvement with the GAA, from playing with his local club in Knockbridge, County Louth to training his camogie team to 24 county senior championships. He also trained teams in Monaghan and enjoyed success with them, before taking over the Louth camogie team and steering them to All-Ireland glory in 1982. Peter also spent some years refereeing – and he did so in both football and hurling, and at all levels of the game. He was assistant treasurer and secretary for his local club and he recalls those days. Things were basic when he was younger – they cycled everywhere, the facilities were poor and they had to wash in a tub – but he enjoyed it immensely. They often held dances and it was an opportunity to socialise with local rivals before doing battle with them on the pitch a day or two later. Peter remembers listening to games on the radio in his youth and his first ever trip to Croke Park for a game. He also offers his opinions on refereeing standards and playing styles in the present day GAA.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:20 Earliest memory is playing at school in the late 1930s.</p> <p>00:30 In 1938 he started playing for St Bride's in Knockbridge and they won the Louth junior championship in 1940.</p> <p>00:50 He transferred to Kilkierley Emmets and won a junior championship with them in 1946.</p> <p>01:05 He was friendly with Larry McCrudden in Dundalk and through him started playing with Dundalk Young Irelander's</p>

	<p>and won a junior medal with them in 1950.</p> <p>01:25 From 1946 to 1986 he was involved in camogie, winning 24 county senior championships as trainer of Kilkenny camogie team.</p> <p>01:50 In Monaghan he won two county championships with Inniskeen.</p> <p>02:00 He won a Monaghan championship with Toome.</p> <p>02:05 He won several junior Leinster championships with Louth and an All-Ireland junior championship with them in 1982, beating Cork in the final.</p> <p>02:35 The first hurling game he played was in Knockbridge with Fr Seamus Quinn and the school in 1936 when he was about 14.</p> <p>03:30 He refereed a lot in Louth, Monaghan and Armagh.</p> <p>04:30 He refereed League and Championship matches.</p> <p>04:50 Recalls a tough match in Armagh.</p> <p>05:45 He became secretary of the Kilkenny Emmets and then a representative to the county board.</p> <p>06:00 Peadar Kearney made him assistant treasurer from 1984 to 1989.</p> <p>07:00 He met a lot of characters and made good friends.</p> <p>07:55 There were often dances held and there people from different clubs could socialise together.</p> <p>08:25 In Knockbridge they got changed in a loft next to a pub.</p> <p>08:55 They cycled to the football field.</p> <p>10:00 In the Athletic Grounds in Dundalk there was a tub and you washed yourself in that.</p> <p>12:10 There were a lot of rations because of World War Two and things were tight.</p> <p>12:45 Lots of good players emigrated to England.</p> <p>13:40 Peter got some work in the north.</p> <p>14:15 Fr Quinn founded St Bride's in 1928.</p> <p>14:30 Kilkenny Emmets went under different names over the years; there was a St Patrick's club nearby.</p>
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	<p>15:20 Dundalk Young Irelander's played Limerick in the first All-Ireland final.</p> <p>15:45 Each club had one football and it was leather with a tube in it; hardware shops sold the balls.</p> <p>17:15 Players were stronger back then because they did a lot of physical work off the pitch.</p> <p>17:50 There weren't many bad injuries and because the boots covered their ankles there weren't many ankle injuries.</p> <p>18:50 The furthest he cycled to was Ravensdale. He also cycled to Rochefort and Tallanstown and Haggardstown and Carrickmacross.</p> <p>20:00 They used to have raffles and a church gate collection to raise money.</p> <p>20:35 They got the goalposts from wood in the forest and cut them.</p> <p>21:00 Money was not as important then.</p> <p>21:15 They sometimes got a bus or a lorry for a championship game.</p> <p>22:00 His family was not involved in the GAA.</p> <p>22:25 His son played with Louth and his grandson does too. His daughters played camogie.</p> <p>22:55 His first cousins were involved in football.</p> <p>23:20 They had rivals but they would meet at dances.</p> <p>24:40 He couldn't make the Knockbridge team so he switched clubs in 1944 and they broke up in 1949.</p> <p>25:30 It was easier to transfer clubs.</p> <p>26:15 There were only a few cases of players playing illegally.</p> <p>26:40 He played some soccer and attended games; the ban did not bother him.</p> <p>27:40 He went to foreign dances too.</p> <p>28:20 They trained 2 nights a week and there were no weights sessions like today.</p> <p>29:15 There was no food after training but a few of them might put some money together for a soft drink.</p>
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	<p>30:15 Being a referee meant you had to keep yourself fit.</p> <p>30:50 Refereeing a hurling game was tough.</p> <p>31:45 Some players transferred from other counties like Tipperary and Kilkenny, and often ended up representing life.</p> <p>32:10 Talks about local legends that reference Cúchulainn.</p> <p>32:40 They used to have the poc fada on an August bank holiday but national championship back-door fixtures interfered with that.</p> <p>34:25 There were a lot of young girls at Knockbridge and his friend Pat Lynch suggested starting a camogie club.</p> <p>35:00 Peter had played some hurling so he was appointed trainer of Kilkenny.</p> <p>36:40 Micheal O'Hehir complimented the Louth Camogie team when Peter was in charge.</p> <p>37:20 Kilkenny, Knockbridge and St Anne's supplied most of the players for the county team.</p> <p>37:40 When they won the All-Ireland in 1982 the celebrations lasted for two months.</p> <p>39:10 The ladies football team also made All-Ireland finals, and it impacted on camogie on the county.</p> <p>40:50 More people started showing interest in the ladies footballers.</p> <p>41:50 Johnny Mullen was involved in starting a Louth Supporters Club and Peter joined.</p> <p>43:00 Sometimes they helped the county team with expenses.</p> <p>44:20 They used to get buses to away games and would make various stops along the way.</p> <p>47:25 They would have good crack on the buses.</p> <p>48:10 When Louth won the All-Ireland football fighting it was very exciting.</p> <p>48:20 Recalls the homecoming.</p> <p>48:55 Peter was a referee at that time.</p> <p>49:10 He had a Cusack Stand ticket for the final and had a</p>
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	<p>great view of things.</p> <p>49:35 Talks about some hassle after when the trainer of the team wasn't taken to the U.S.</p> <p>50:30 He remembers the trainer coming out of the meeting after being told he wasn't being taken to the U.S.</p> <p>51:30 The Louth team is short of big strong players.</p> <p>53:00 There is too much training done with the football and players don't know how to tackle.</p> <p>54:15 He was a club delegate to the county board and then he was treasurer before getting onto the finance committee and being elected Honorary President.</p> <p>54:40 As Honorary President he can talk at meetings but cannot vote.</p> <p>55:55 Mentions a problem over fixtures clashing with an awards ceremony.</p> <p>57:30 Handball was played in the south of the county.</p> <p>57:45 Scór was not big but Tomás Ó Hócaí (Hoey) revived it and it was a success.</p> <p>59:50 No matter what your administrative position was at the club everybody pitched in to help out in whatever way they could.</p> <p>01:00:00 Affiliation is very expensive now.</p> <p>01:00:10 Recalls buying a field for the club in 1964.</p> <p>01:01:40 They had raffles and challenge matches and people donated money and they borrowed some money to pay for the fields.</p> <p>01:02:45 In the early 1960s they decided to start a team called St Malachy's in Shellagh.</p> <p>01:03:55 They were going to call the field the Mulholland field.</p> <p>01:04:50 When he was assistant treasurer Peadar Kearney was the treasurer but there was never huge sums of money involved.</p> <p>01:05:50 They combined the secretary and treasurer roles because there was nobody else to fill the role.</p> <p>01:06:25 They had good protection when collecting money at</p>
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	<p>the gates.</p> <p>01:07:15 The Troubles in the north did not have a big impact on the local area.</p> <p>01:07:40 They might be stopped by the police on the way to a game in the north.</p> <p>01:08:20 First game he listened to on the radio was Micheal O’Hehir; the commentators before him were not very good.</p> <p>01:08:50 He first went to Croke Park in 1940 to see Louth minors - he was on the panel but did not make the team.</p> <p>01:09:20 Kevin Macken was on the panel and made the senior team a few years later.</p> <p>01:09:30 Louth beat Kerry that day.</p> <p>01:09:50 Peter played schools hurling at Knockbridge School but not with a club.</p> <p>01:11:25 His teachers were not involved in the GAA at all.</p> <p>01:11:45 The parish priest was involved in football and was president of the football club. Fr Harvey came and got heavily involved and was a trainer of a local team.</p> <p>01:12:30 He doesn't like handpassing in the game and feels it is not properly defined. Referees are too strict on minor infringements and let major fouls go.</p> <p>01:13:40 Recalls a time when the Dublin camogie team got a new trainer in and Sophie Brack stood up to the trainer.</p> <p>01:15:35 Best memory is winning a camogie All-Ireland, winning a junior championship and watching the seniors win a championship in 1943.</p> <p>01:17:35 Watching Louth lose the Leinster final in 1960 was disappointing, but they had good games against Meath in the 1940s.</p> <p>01:18:45 He would be lost without the GAA.</p> <p>01:20:55 He was happy to see his son and then his grandson play for the county.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager ✓ Coach ✓ Steward</p> <p>✓ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member ✓ Grounds-person</p>

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	<input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	Peter played between 1938 and 1951. He won 3 junior championships one each with St. Bride's, Kilkenny Emmets and Dundalk Young Ireland's.
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Peter has held a variety of administration roles. He has been Secretary of Kilkenny Emmets; Assistant Treasurer of Louth County Board; Chairman of Louth Camogie Board; Member of Leinster Camogie Council; Vice-chairman of Camogie Central Council; Chairman of Poc Fada; Honorary President of St. Bride's and St Malachy's GAA Clubs.
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:21:49
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: ___Arlene Crampsie_____

Date: ___15/06/12_____